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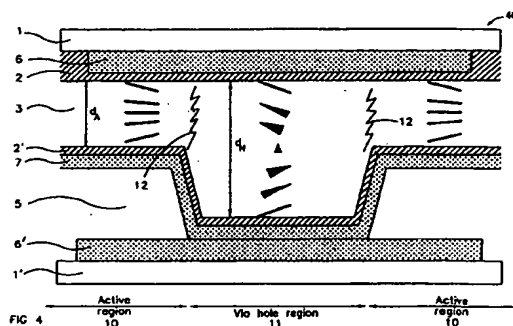
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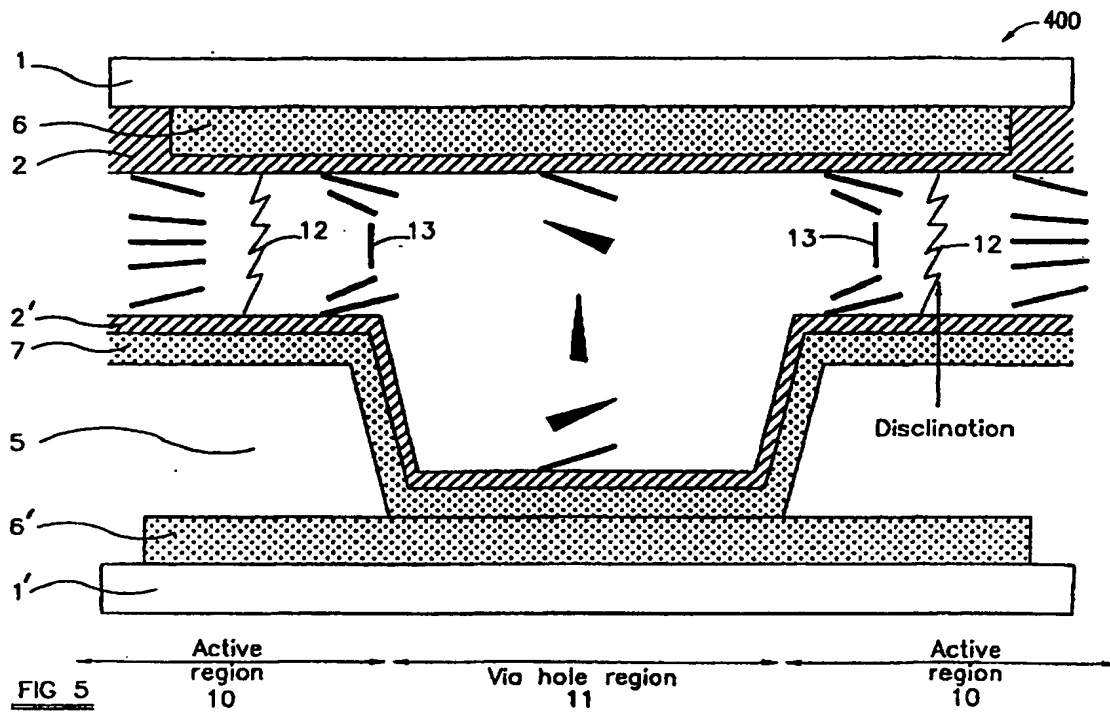
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(54) Liquid Crystal Display Device

(57) A liquid crystal display device comprises: a layer of a chiral liquid crystal material disposed between first and second substrates (1,1'); and means for applying a voltage (6,6',7) across the liquid crystal layer. A first region of the liquid crystal layer is an active region (10) for display and a second region of the liquid crystal layer is a nucleation region (11) for generating a desired liquid crystal state in the first region when a voltage is applied across the liquid crystal layer. The ratio of the thickness d of the liquid crystal layer to the pitch p of the liquid crystal material has a first value $(d/p)_A$ in the first region of the liquid crystal layer and has a second value $(d/p)_N$ different from the first value in the second region of the liquid crystal layer. The value $(d/p)_N$ of the ratio of the thickness d of the liquid crystal layer to the pitch p of the liquid crystal material in the second region of the liquid crystal layer is selected such that, when no voltage is applied across the liquid crystal layer, the liquid crystal state stable in the second region of the liquid crystal layer is topologically equivalent to the desired liquid crystal state under application of a voltage.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 30 1063

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 26 February 2003	Examiner Lerbinger, K
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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